



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Finance Committee Minutes 02-11-2002

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 MINUTES OF MEETING  
 7:30 PM O'Neill room Community Safety Building  
 2/11/02

### ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib*	Kocur*	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont*		Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning	Tosi*	Kneeland*

\* Indicates present

**VISITORS:** Vision 2020 members Leslie Mayer, Jane Howard (co-chair), Community Preservation Act Study Committee members Clarissa Rowe (chair), Chick Abbott, Ann LeRoy, Nathaniel Stevens.

**MINUTES** of 2/4/02 approved as printed. Unanimous.

**GENERAL:** The chair (Tosti) provided copies of his budget summary spreadsheet showing a budget deficit of \$2.8 million, which agrees with the Deputy Town Manager's estimate. He reviewed the reasons for this: reduced state revenue and thus level-funded state [aid] and increased health-care costs. He reviewed the approach used the last time large cuts were required using another sheet. This sheet that showed the way fixed costs would be identified and used to obtain the previous year (FY02) budget base. The cuts would then be allocated by department proportional to the department's fraction of the budget base to match available revenue after subtracting fixed costs. The first step is to confirm the fixed costs. The chair asked all subcommittees to review their fixed-cost budgets as soon as possible. He explained that a solid understanding of the budget will be necessary regardless of whether the Town decides to cut or to raise taxes by override.

**ARTICLE 35 Arlington Reservoir:** Leslie Mayer, representing the Reservoir Subcommittee of Vision 2020's Environmental Task Group, explained that the subcommittee is working to develop a comprehensive plan for the reservoir rather than respond only to the narrow concern raised by State inspectors about dam safety. The first step is to reach consensus among all the interested parties on a set of goals for this property. The purpose of the article is to approve these goals. She provided a draft of the goals along with the subcommittee's report. She is not requesting an appropriation. The FinCom will not take a position on this article.

**ARTICLE 64 PEIRCE FIELD ASSESSMENT COST:** The Town Counsel, in a letter to the FinCom, has suggested funding the Town's assessment of the remediation cost using a transfer from the FY02 Workman's Compensation Budget. This would make the funds available immediately and reduce the free cash at the end of the year.

VOTED to transfer \$103,074.36 from the FY02 Workman's Compensation budget to the FY02 Legal Expense budget and to recommend no action on ARTICLE 64. Unanimous.

**ARTICLE 24 ESTABLISH COMMITTEE/COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA):** Clarissa Rowe reviewed the activities of the CPA Study Committee noting that the Town leadership is opposed while the preliminary census survey results show heavy citizen support. She reviewed the provisions of the act and reported that substantial matching funds are currently available. She stated that a proposal to accept the act would be pointless without the support of the Finance Committee. Rowe suggested that a collaboration with the Capital Budget Committee would be a good way to explore just how CPA funds could be used most productively in Arlington. A meeting with the Capital Budget Committee is planned. No specific vote wording has been developed by the Study Committee. In the ensuing discussion, the FinCom members expressed both support and opposition. The Chair requested that when the Study Committee does approve specific wording, it return to the FinCom for a vote. Rowe

agreed to do this within a few weeks after providing an advanced copy of the recommended vote.

**BUDGET 25 INSURANCE:** The Finances Subcommittee (Foskett) provided a spreadsheet correcting an addition error in this budget. Again this year this budget has increased well beyond the CPI (17% increase overall), a large part of which is Health Insurance (12% increase). The Subcommittee reviewed the reasons for this including more older retired members and more spouse members. Several suggestions were made including a 2 tiered contribution schedule, a larger co-payment, and joining with other communities to create a larger bargaining unit.

VOTED to table this budget and to return to the Manager with suggestions for reductions.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS:** A revised Warrant draft was provided. This draft has one fewer article and some renumbering. The tracking chart below has been renumbered to agree.

The Executive Secretary provided a hearing schedule. Wednesday's meeting is canceled. Next meeting is Feb 20.

**RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$231,272**

Peter B. Howard, secretary

### Budget & Article Action Summary

Budget no	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Article no.	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote/assigned to
1	2/4	2/4	11257	Unanimous	19				
2					20				
3					21				
4					24	2/11			
5					31				
6					32				

7					33				
8					34	1/28			Need info
9					35	2/11		BOS	
10					38	1/28	2/4	No repo rt	Unanimous
11					39	1/28			Foskett
12					40	1/28			
13					41				
14					42				
15					43				
16					44				
17a					45				
17b					46				
17c					47				
17d					48				
17e					49				
17f					50				
19					52				
20					53	1/28	2/4	Appr ove	Unanimous
21a					54				
21b					55				
21c					56				
21d					58				
22					59				
23					60				
24					61				
25	2/11		986637 0	Tabled	62				
26					63				
W/S					64		2/11	No action	Unanimous
Rec					65				
Rnk					66				
COA					67				
YS					68				
					69				
					70				
					71				
					72				